

Licensed Childcare Advisory Council Meeting  
Fort Wayne, Indiana

October 23, 2007

Present: Michelle Thomas, Lisa Clifford, Amelia Galloway, Vicky Russo-Steele, Lisa Kipker, Mary Lee Freeze, Lisa Bliven, Kindrea Ware

Next meeting. January 9, 2007

Michelle shared about Paths to Quality will roll out beginning January 2008. This is a voluntary system. Part-time, unlicensed facilities will not be allowed into this system at this time. The following levels have been established:

- Level 1 – Health and safety needs of children met
- Level 2 – Environment supports children's learning
- Level 3 – Planned curriculum guides child development and school readiness
- Level 4 – National accreditation (the highest indicator of quality) us achieved.

There is a reward system built in:

- Level 1 - \$50 non-cash/materials package
- Level 2 - \$1,000 non-cash/materials package
- Level 3 - \$1,000 non-cash/materials package
- Level 4 - \$1,500 cash award
- Annual Level 4 - \$1,000 cash award

A mentor works with the site through Level 3 (from local CCR&R) and at Level 4 the site will work with an IAEYC advisor. A completely separate company has been hired to be the raters. Each CCR&R will have information before the roll out date for each area.

When Paths to Quality is rolled out, if you are already accredited, the site will just move to Level 4 and get the cash award.

A handout describing the Paths to Quality process as well as the roll out schedule was shared.

There is a signed agreement with Early Childhood Alliance for the Paths to Quality system. We will be about the 14<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> state to have a paths to quality system.

The standards as written were evaluated by Purdue to substantiate them as appropriate leading to positive child outcomes. The standards are available on *Carefinder*. Purdue will also do a 4 year study to see what difference is being made for providers, children and families.

The standards are also aligned with the Foundations. Policies and procedures have been approved. There has also been developed a web-based software system for all partners.

Michelle asked the group to go out and talk about this process and share the handouts.

There has been a set of requirements established for registered ministries to meet to be a part of the Paths to Quality Process.

The first marketing strategies will focus on providers. After the second year, there will be marketing targeted for parents.

Michelle stated that, “We (the state) will be expecting a lot, but we will also be giving a lot.”

Vicky addressed how to increase participation. Consensus was that the meetings should be centrally located in Indianapolis and members should invite local providers.

The group also discussed whether the conference calls should continue. Vicky asked whether the Interpretive Guidelines should be discussed by parts. Consensus was that they will continue for at least the next quarter and that there is not a lot of concern about discussing the Interpretive Guidelines further.

There are three people who have expressed an interest in being a part of the Advisory Council: Terri Kosik from Notre Dame and Kendra Mortensen from High Point Child Care in Evansville and Jane Hammonds from Indianapolis. Motion was made and seconded to approve these three. Motion was approved.

Lisa Kipker brought up a discussion about the data base that has been created to replace the Central Registry Check. Michelle explained how this change occurred. Michelle shared that they are starting to experience hits. Unfortunately some of them are 10 years old. Michelle shared that the attorney told her that the person can get the record expunged. A waiver can be written for. The question was how long the waiver would take? Michelle said that they should be resolved within 30 days.

Lisa Clifford explained the process for licensed sites annual renewal and the employee Child Protective Index (CPI).

Lisa Kipker asked for clarity for the word “contact”. Lisa Clifford said that involves employees and volunteers.

Michelle asked how we are going to communicate that the meetings are going to be changed to be in Indianapolis? Vicki said that she will send it to the board and to the email list. She will also share that the meeting is open to the public.

Michelle shared that \$55,000,000 out of \$130,000,000 was paid to licensed childcare centers for vouchers. We have gone from 65% to 70% the numbers of children in licensed centers.